

THE CLAIMS

1-3. (canceled)

4. (currently amended) A cooking oil and/or fat filter apparatus, the apparatus comprising:

a filter means; ~~and~~

a cup for receiving matter from a liquid being filtered, in use, and wherein the filter means and the cup ~~are formed by~~ form a single cup and filter body, and ~~the cup~~ said body comprises at least one annular cup means; and

inlet means above the filter means for delivery of unfiltered liquid to the filter means and the cup, and outlet means for removal of filtered liquid from the filter means;

further comprising filter support means comprising a substantially rigid body having an inner surface which at least in part closely fits with a discharge side surface of the filter means, the filter support means comprising at least one annular portion,

wherein the filter support means provides means to transport filtered liquid from a discharge side of the filter means to the outlet means;

wherein, in use, at least one seal is formed between an upper end of the filter means and an upper end of the filter support means by cooking oil and/or cooking fat, and below said at least one seal the transport means guides filtered liquid which has passed through the filter means to the outlet means.

5. (canceled)

6. (canceled)

7. (previously presented) A filter apparatus as claimed in claim 6, wherein the cup and filter body comprises a sheet form member optionally including pleats.

8. (previously presented) A filter apparatus as claimed in claim 7, wherein the sheet form member is made from a material having filtering properties.
9. (canceled)
10. (previously presented) A filter apparatus as claimed in claim 4, wherein the cup comprises a plurality of cup means.
11. (previously presented) A filter apparatus as claimed in claim 4, wherein the cup comprises a plurality of substantially concentric annular cup means.
12. (previously presented) A filter apparatus as claimed in claim 4, wherein the filter means is made from a cellulose fabric.
13. (previously presented) A filter apparatus as claimed in claim 4, wherein the filter means is made from polyester.
14. (previously presented) A filter apparatus as claimed in claim 4, wherein a suction side surface of the cup comprises an annular receiving space.
15. (canceled)
16. (canceled)
17. (canceled)
18. (previously presented) A filter apparatus as claimed in claim 17, wherein the filter support means comprises a plurality of substantially concentric annular portions.

19. (previously presented) A filter apparatus as claimed in claim 15, wherein the filter support means is manufactured from a high temperature resistant material which is suitable for use with food products.

20. (canceled)

21. (previously presented) A filter apparatus as claimed in claim 20, wherein the inlet means is above the filter means, when in situ, and the outlet means is below the filter means.

22. (currently amended) A filter apparatus as claimed in claim 20, wherein the inlet means is above the filter means, when in situ, and the outlet means is above the filter means.

23. (currently amended) A filter apparatus as claimed in claim ~~5~~ 4, wherein the cup and filter body have a side cross-section in the shape of a "W".

24. (previously presented) A filter apparatus as claimed in claim 4, wherein the filter means has a side cross-section in the shape of a "V".

25. (currently amended) A filter apparatus as claimed in claim ~~5~~ 4, wherein the single cup and filter body has a side cross-section in the shape of a plurality of "V"s.

26. (previously presented) A filter apparatus as claimed in claim 25, wherein the single cup and filter body has a side cross-section in the shape of at least four "V"s.

27. (previously presented) A filter apparatus as claimed in claim 15, wherein the filter support means has a side cross-section in the shape of a "W".

28. (previously presented) A filter apparatus as claimed in claim 15, wherein the filter support means has a side cross-section in the shape of a "V".

29. (previously presented) A filter apparatus as claimed in claim 15, wherein the filter support means has a side cross-section in the shape of a plurality of "V"s.

30. (currently amended) A filter apparatus as claimed in claim 5 4, wherein the single cup and filter body comprises a first frusto-conical portion and a second frusto-conical portion, the first frusto-conical portion being provided within the second frusto-conical portion, the second frusto-conical portion being inverted relative to the first frusto-conical portion, a narrow end of the first frusto-conical portion being joined with a wide end of the second frusto-conical portion.

31. (currently amended) A filter apparatus as claimed in claim 5 4, wherein the single cup and filter body comprises first, second, third and fourth frusto-conical portions, the frusto-conical portions being provided one within the other, the second and fourth frusto-conical portions being inverted relative to the first and third frusto-conical portions, one end of one frusto-conical portion being joined with an adjacent end of an adjacent frusto-conical portion.

32. (currently amended) A filter apparatus as claimed in claim 5 4, wherein the single cup and filter body is substantially symmetrical about every plane extending through a central axis thereof.

33. (currently amended) A filter apparatus as claimed in claim 5 4, wherein the single cup and filter body is in the form of a cone.

34. (currently amended) A filter apparatus as claimed in claim 5 4, wherein the single cup and filter body is in the form of a cone which has been partially inverted to define a "W" cross-sectional shape, such that a single annular cup is provided.

35. (previously presented) A filter apparatus as claimed in claim 34, wherein the cone is partially inverted such that a lower edge of the cone, is aligned with an upper edge thereof.

36. (canceled)

37. (currently amended) A filter apparatus as claimed in claim ~~36~~ 4, wherein the transport means comprises a plurality of apertures in the filter support means.

38. (currently amended) A filter apparatus as claimed in claim ~~36~~ 4, wherein the transport means comprises a plurality of channels provided or formed on a surface of the filter support means.

39. (currently amended) A filter apparatus as claimed in claim ~~20~~ 4, further comprising means for detachably attaching the filter means thereto.

40. (previously presented) A filter apparatus as claimed in claim 39, wherein the detachable attachment means comprises means for releasably connecting the filter support means to the inlet means and outlet means.

41. (previously presented) A filter apparatus as claimed in claim 40, wherein the releasable connection means comprises a quick release coupling.

42. (previously presented) A filter apparatus as claimed in claim 41, wherein the inlet means includes a rotary coupling.

43. (previously presented) A filter apparatus as claimed in claim 42, wherein the outlet means includes a further rotary coupling.

44. (canceled)

45. (canceled)

46. (canceled)

47. (canceled)

48. (currently amended) ~~An apparatus, such as a~~ A cooking apparatus, the apparatus comprising a cooking oil and/or cooking fat apparatus according to claim 4, the cooking oil and/or fat filter apparatus comprising:

a filter means;

a cup for receiving matter from a liquid being filtered, in use, and wherein the filter means and the cup form a single cup and filter body, and said body comprises at least one annular cup means; and

inlet means above the filter means for delivery of unfiltered liquid to the filter means and the cup, and outlet means for removal of filtered liquid from the filter means;

further comprising filter support means comprising a substantially rigid body having an inner surface which at least in part closely fits with a discharge side surface of the filter means, the filter support means comprising at least one annular portion,

wherein the filter support means provides means to transport filtered liquid from a discharge side of the filter means to the outlet means;

wherein, in use, at least one seal is formed between an upper end of the filter means and an upper end of the filter support means by cooking oil and/or cooking fat being filtered, and below said at least one seal the transport means guides filtered liquid which has passed through the filter means to the outlet means.

49. (Currently Amended) ~~An apparatus, such as a~~ A cooking apparatus, as claimed in claim 48, comprising a commercial cooking apparatus adapted for use in a food outlet, restaurant or other food retail premises, the cooking apparatus comprising a cooking oil and/or cooking fat apparatus, the cooking oil and/or fat filter apparatus comprising:

a filter means;

a cup for receiving matter from a liquid being filtered, in use, and wherein the filter means and the cup form a single cup and filter body, and said body comprises at least one annular cup means; and

inlet means above the filter means for delivery of unfiltered liquid to the filter means and the cup, and outlet means for removal of filtered liquid from the filter means;

further comprising filter support means comprising a substantially rigid body having an inner surface which at least in part closely fits with a discharge side surface of the filter means, the filter support means comprising at least one annular portion,

wherein the filter support means provides means to transport filtered liquid from a discharge side of the filter means to the outlet means;

wherein, in use, at least one seal is formed between an upper end of the filter means and an upper end of the filter support means by cooking oil and/or cooking fat being filtered, and below said at least one seal the transport means guides filtered liquid which has passed through the filter means to the outlet means.

50. (currently amended) ~~An apparatus, such as a~~ A cooking apparatus as claimed in claim 48, adapted for use in a factory or other commercial food preparation premises, the cooking apparatus comprising a cooking oil and/or cooking fat apparatus, the cooking oil and/or fat filter apparatus comprising:

a filter means;

a cup for receiving matter from a liquid being filtered, in use, and wherein the filter means and the cup form a single cup and filter body, and said body comprises at least one annular cup means; and

inlet means above the filter means for delivery of unfiltered liquid to the filter means and the cup, and outlet means for removal of filtered liquid from the filter means;

further comprising filter support means comprising a substantially rigid body having an inner surface which at least in part, closely fits with a discharge side surface of the filter means, the filter support means comprising at least one annular portion,

wherein the filter support means provides means to transport filtered liquid from a discharge side of the filter means to the outlet means;

wherein, in use, at least one seal is formed between an upper end of the filter means and an upper end of the filter support means by cooking oil and/or cooking fat being filtered, and below said at least one seal the transport means guides filtered liquid which has passed through the filter means to the outlet means.

51. (currently amended) ~~An apparatus, such as a~~ A cooking apparatus, as claimed in claim 48, comprising a frying machine or deep fat/oil fryer, the cooking apparatus comprising a cooking oil and/or cooking fat apparatus, the cooking oil and/or fat filter apparatus comprising:

a filter means;

a cup for receiving matter from a liquid being filtered, in use, and wherein the filter means and the cup form a single cup and filter body, and said body comprises at least one annular cup means; and

inlet means above the filter means for delivery of unfiltered liquid to the filter means and the cup, and outlet means for removal of filtered liquid from the filter means;

further comprising filter support means comprising a substantially rigid body having an inner surface which at least in part closely fits with a discharge side surface of the filter means, the filter support means comprising at least one annular portion,

wherein the filter support means provides means to transport filtered liquid from a discharge side of the filter means to the outlet means;

wherein, in use, at least one seal is formed between an upper end of the filter means and an upper end of the filter support means by cooking oil and/or cooking fat being filtered, and below said at least one seal the transport means guides filtered liquid which has passed through the filter means to the outlet means.

52.(currently amended) A filter apparatus as claimed in claim 44 4, wherein the at least one seal is provided by virtue of the cooking oil and/or cooking fat adhering to the at least one of the filter support means and/or filter means so as to provide the at least one seal through viscous tension.

53.(currently amended) A filter apparatus as claimed in claim ~~45~~ 4, wherein an upper end of the filter means forms a seal with an internal surface provided at an upper end of the filter support means, the upper end of the filter means and the upper end of the filter support means being flared out.